

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 131593

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SCUL, PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: CHINA STARS SONG ENSEMBLE

REF: (A) TAIPEI 3873; (B) STATE 129837

1. EA/ROC DIRECTOR SULLIVAN CALLED IN ROC EMBASSY POLITICAL MINISTER COUNSELOR CHEN JUNE 19 TO INFORM HIM OF CHINA STARS GROUP AND PRC WU SHU SCHEDULE CONFLICT AND TO PRESS FOR GROC COOPERATION TO ENSURE THAT CHINA STARS GROUP DELAY DEPARTURE FOR US UNTIL WU SHU GROUP LEAVES ON JULY 14.

2. BASED ON REPORT FROM EMBASSY TAIPEI, SULLIVAN SAID CHINA STARS GROUP APPLIED FOR VISAS ON JUNE 19 SAYING IT WANTED TO BE IN NEW YORK JUNE 21 FOR "SPECIAL EVENT" AND FOR PERFORMANCES JUNE 25-JULY 8. WU SHU GROUP ARRIVES IN US (HONOLULU) JUNE 21 AND WILL BE IN NEW YORK JULY 2-7 AND IN WASHINGTON

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JULY 10-13, DEPARTING US ON JULY 14.

3. SULLIVAN EXPLAINED THAT WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT TAIWAN GROUP NOT OVERLAP, IMMEDIATELY PRECEDE OR FOLLOW ON HEELS OF OFFICIALLY SPONSORED PRC GROUP. WE THEREFORE ARE ASKING THE ROC BOTH HERE IN WASHINGTON AND IN TAIPEI TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO DELAY DEPARTURE OF CHINA STARS GROUP

UNTIL JULY 14. WHEN CHEN COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS PRIVATE GROUP, SULLIVAN RESPONDED THAT WE WERE AWARE OF ROC POSITION THAT IT COULD NOT ALWAYS CONTROL PRIVATE GROUPS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ROC CAN DO SO AND ARE ASKING FOR THEIR COOPERATION. SHOULD ROC TAKE POSITION THAT IT CANNOT COOPERATE, RESULT COULD BE DISRUPTION OF US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH WE WOULD REGARD AS SERIOUS MATTER.

4. CHEN COMMENTED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED THE GROUP WOULD APPLY FOR VISAS TO PERFORM IN NEW YORK SINCE ROC EMBASSY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HAD REPORTED PLANNED WU SHU TOUR. WHEN CHEN ADDED THAT EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED NO ANSWER FROM TAIPEI TO THAT CABLE. SULLIVAN COMMENTED THAT MAYBE THIS WAS TAIPEI'S REPLY.

5. SULLIVAN WENT THROUGH OTHER POINTS ALONG LINES HAI CHIA APPROACH, EMPHASIZING THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO DENY VISAS AND THAT THIS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY IF ROC WILL TAKE ACTION TO DELAY GROUP'S DEPARTURE. CHEN SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO TAIPEI IMMEDIATELY AND NOTIFY US AS SOON AS REPLY RECEIVED.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY FOLLOW UP AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU CONSIDER NECESSARY, REITERATING POINT THAT WE WOULD REGARD DISRUPTION OF US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM RESULTING FROM ROC UNWILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN AVOIDING SCHEDULE CONFLICTS AS SERIOUS MATTER.

7. REGARDLESS OF ROC RESPONSE, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO WITHHOLD VISAS PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. APPRECIATE THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS LEGAL AND FINANCIAL
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COMPLICATIONS IF WE HAD TO DENY VISAS. AS IN HAI CHIA CASE, THIS IS ALL MORE REASON WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT GROG TAKE NECESSARY ACTION.

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